



BArch Admission Process: Portfolio and Interview Guidance

All candidates for the BArch Architecture programme will have to successfully pass the three stages of the selection process to receive an offer to study in the course.

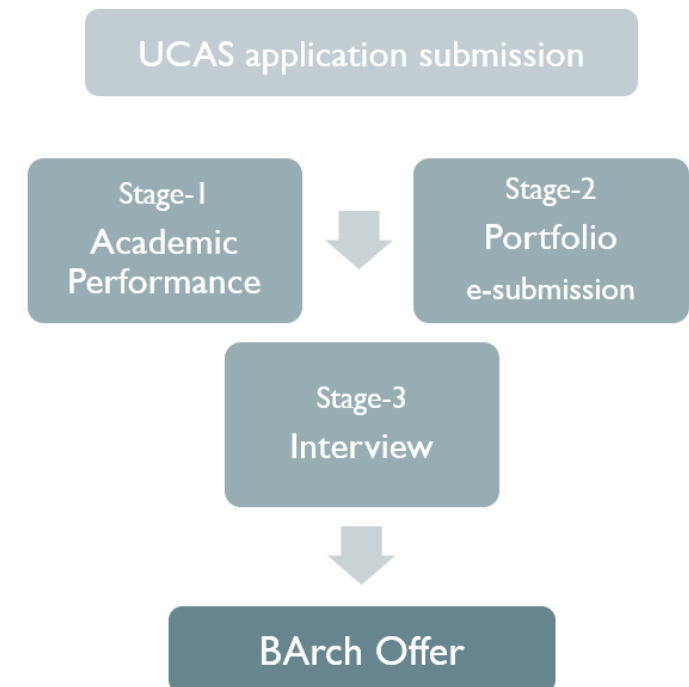
Stage-1: First you must ensure you meet the Qualifications required (e.g. A-Levels, IB). Please check the Typical Offers in our website:

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/2020/a-z/architecture-barch/>

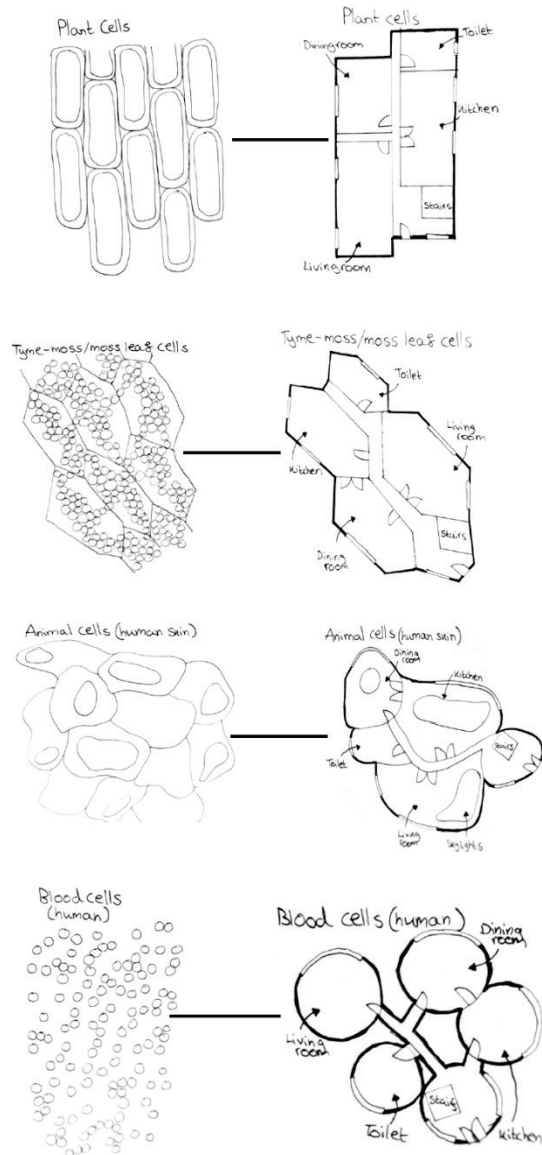
Stage-2: Following your UCAS application to our BArch Architecture programme you will be asked to submit a Portfolio.

Stage-3: Subject to the quality of the work submitted in your Portfolio you will be then invited to one of our Interview days (either face-to-face or virtually) taking place between December and March. These allow us to assess academic potential beyond that provided as part of the UCAS application and assist our offer decisions.

Interviews are also an opportunity for you to visit the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering, meet staff and students, see our facilities, and get an insight into what it is like to be a student at Loughborough.



Stage-2 Portfolio Submission Guidance



Exploring a range of cells under a microscope and interpreting them into potential plans
© Rebecca Williams

Your portfolio is a significant part of the admissions process - while your grades signify your academic achievements, your portfolio displays your creative ability.

A portfolio is not just about the work inside it, but about the way the work is presented and communicated as an overall narrative to best tell your story as a creative individual. We encourage a diverse range of work including finished and unfinished projects – **we want to understand your design thinking and process more than a finished product.**

Typical type of portfolio material:

Sketches, free-hand drawings (ink, charcoal, pencil, graphite), orthographic drawings (plans, sections, elevations), life-drawings, collages, sculptures, physical models, time-based work (films, animations, music), graphic design (flyer, logo, brochure), photography, paintings, website design, metalwork, woodwork, textiles, creative writing (poetry, short story), research studies (a precedent study) and whatever you feel conveys your creativity and imagination. You may include pages that express your technical ability e.g. CAD drawings, however we prefer to see work that displays your creative ability in the visual and material arts.

What to include in your portfolio?

Pieces can be from your GCSE, A-level or equivalent courses **and most importantly** we would like to see personal work that reflects your interests and self-motivation to be creative. We do not expect to **see** architecture you designed, but a selection of your best work that demonstrates your creative passions and ambitions. Ask yourself, whether your portfolio itself is a piece of artistic work you are proud of.



Alcohol and Ink spatial explorations © Nyewuna Amadi

A themed portfolio piece

Within your .pdf portfolio, while not mandatory, we encourage you to create a new piece of work that investigates and responds to any theme of your choice, such as the example below:
 Example theme of '**Connections**': this could refer to physical connections (e.g. a plug and socket or train tracks), social connections (e.g. between parent and child) or any other (e.g. digital, environmental, metaphysical), and it does not have to be taken in an Architectural direction. Your work on such a theme should focus on showing us your ability to reflect on, analyse and creatively visualise your interpretation of the theme.

With **any theme of your choice** we would like to see how the exploration of the idea develops with process work and then presentation of the final piece, all clearly labelled. The exploration of ideas should be shown first using some work generated in preparation for creating the final piece, e.g. initial sketches, initial models, other experimental work carried out prior to the final piece. Then you should present your final piece, in a carefully composed and presented manner.

Note to Design & Technology students: Please do not simply translate your 'brainstorm' sheets into portfolio pages. These pages tend to be difficult to garner insight into your design thinking. You should carefully curate this work to make sure you are communicating your ideas and design process behind the development of the project/product.

Portfolio name:

You should comply to our Portfolio naming convention, which includes your UCAS number and name:

Portfolio_UCASNumber_Initial.Surname

For example:

Portfolio_123-456-789_B.Robinson

Please also include your name and UCAS number in the 1st page of your portfolio.

Tips to consider when assembling your portfolio:

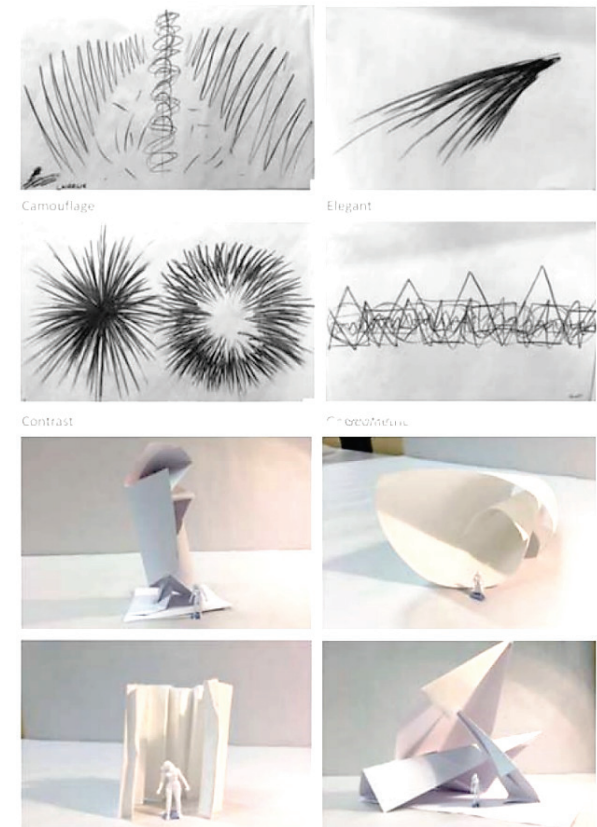
1. The organization of your portfolio – think of your portfolio as a book that your reader moves through - as the first page, what does your cover communicate about you?
2. The organization of the content on a page – use the layout of the page to clearly communicate your work and the ideas and process behind it.
3. Carefully consider what each piece of work may communicate about you –skills, representation (literal or abstract), is it an original piece or duplication or appropriation of an artist’s work?
4. Does your portfolio showcase a good mixture of ideas and skills (e.g. drawing, making)?
5. Have you clearly cited any material that you did not create yourself?

Format:

Your portfolio should be a maximum of 15pages. It should be constructed as a series of portfolio pages. We do not want 15 separate files in a mixture of formats. This should be **single** digital document, preferably .pdf file.
We do not accept blogs.

File size:

As a digital submission, it can be any page size/orientation. Please note that we review portfolios digitally on standard monitors, we do not print them.
For larger files, try to reduce its size without compromising the quality of your work. If that is not possible, please contact us for an alternative way to submit via a web link.



*Spatial translation of concepts for an observatory
© Charlie Benjamin*

Stage-3 Interview

There is no guarantee what questions you will be asked, but it may be helpful to consider:

- Why do you want to study architecture?
- Why do you want to study at Loughborough?
- What are some of the concepts behind the work in your portfolio?
- What is your favourite piece of contemporary and historic architecture?
- What questions do you have for us?
- Can you reflect on the strengths and ways to improve your work?

Please bring your portfolio with you and any new material you wish to show us if the time permits.

There is no need for you to bring examples of your actual work (e.g. models, sculptures), just the portfolio and/or pictures of them.

During the pandemic, the University will be hosting virtual interview days, which will be followed by an opportunity to visit campus and possibly our facilities at a later date.